

ANSWER OF MARKEL INSURANCE COMPANY

Markel Insurance Company ("Markel"), one of the third-party defendants herein, files its answer to Defendants' Original Third-Party Petition, and states:

1. With respect to the allegations contained in Paragraph I, admits the allegations pertaining to Markel; and states it is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained therein.

- 2. With respect to the allegations contained in Paragraph II, states that Plaintiff's Original Petition speaks for itself, although admits the allegations contained therein are broad and vague; states it is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to whether any of Plaintiff's allegations against Third-Party Plaintiffs are true; and denies the allegations therein against Markel.
- 3. With respect to the allegations contained in Paragraph III, admits, based on information and belief, the allegations pertaining to ERISA; denies any contracts exist between Markel and Third-Party Plaintiffs; and states it is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained therein.
- 4. With respect to the allegations contained in Paragraph IV, denies Third-Party Plaintiffs are entitled to contribution and/or indemnity; denies Markel is liable to Third-Party Plaintiffs for any alleged overpayments; denies Third-Party Plaintiffs are entitled to any recovery from Markel; and states it is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained therein.
- 5. With respect to the allegations contained in Paragraph V, denies Third-Party Plaintiffs are entitled to declaratory judgment relief; and states it is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained therein.

- 6. With respect to the allegations contained in Paragraph VI, denies the allegations against Markel; and states it is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained therein.
 - 7. Denies all allegations not specifically admitted.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

8. Third-Party Plaintiffs' state law claims are preempted by ERISA.

RELIEF REQUESTED

- 9. Markel requests the following relief:
 - (a) That Third-Party Plaintiffs take nothing by reason of their suit;
 - (b) That Markel be dismissed with its costs and attorneys' fees under 29 U.S.C. §1132(g); and
 - (c) That Markel have such other and further relief, both general and special, at law and in equity, to which it may show itself justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

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Attorney-in-Charge

OF COUNSEL:
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ATTORNEYS FOR THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT MARKEL INSURANCE COMPANY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been forwarded via certified mail, return receipt requested, to the parties on the attached Service List on the 10th day of August, 2000.

Andrew G. Jubinsky

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